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NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

It has never been easy to gauge the real strength of the "Nationalist" movement, partly because of the exuberant terms in which most statements of its progress, as seen from the inside, have been couched, and partly from the elastic use of terms in classifying persons as adherents. The impression has prevailed, however, for some time that the movement had lost its impetus, and was likely before long to count as one more on the list of decayed Utopias. This impression is confirmed by the announcement in the April number of the *Nationalist* that the publication of the magazine must be discontinued from the lack of support by Nationalists generally.

STIMULATED by the example of Hungary and Austria, the administration of the State railways of Prussia has announced a general reduction of passenger fares. While the much-lauded zone system is not adopted,—the single kilometre remaining the unit of charge,—the usual rate on ordinary trains is much reduced, from 8 pfennigs to 6 on first-class, from 6 to 4 on second-class, and from 4 to 2 on third-class. Express-train fares are also reduced, though they still remain higher than on ordinary trains. The general reduction is offset in part, though not in great part, by certain changes in the other direction. Fourth-class is abolished; and the ordinary fare for fourth-class has been as low as the new third-class rate. Baggage is no longer to be carried free, though it is promised that the charge will be lower than that hitherto levied on excess baggage. Lower fares on return-trip tickets are done away with; and the tourist, foreign or native, is to be mulcted by the abolition of summer travel and excursion tickets.

It is calculated that the reductions on the travel of 1888-89 would have lessened the receipts by the total of 35,000,000 marks. The *Reichsanzeiger*, in announcing and explaining the changes, gives elaborate tables as to their effects, and takes pains to show that the rates will be lower, on the whole, and certainly lower on short-distance traffic, than they are under the remodelled tariffs of Austria and Hungary. The new *régime* clearly is due in good part to international rivalry.

IN the April number of the *Nationalist* a correspondent states the conditions which from observation he believes to be necessary for the successful establishment of a "co-operative colony," organized upon Nationalist principles. Besides the need of practical executive talent, too often lacking in such enterprises, the writer lays down also the fundamental condition that the colony must be large enough to dispense with all alliances with the differently organized society around it, and must be self-sufficing. This requires a considerable extent of territory and some diversity of resources.

To succeed, he says, a Nationalist colony should possess:—

1. Perfect title to from ten thousand to twenty-five thousand acres of land.
2. This land should be in a comparatively non-malarious climate.
3. It should be productive.
4. It should be east of the Mississippi, north of Memphis, Birmingham, and Macon, and south of the great lakes.
5. It should be unexhausted.
6. It should consist of from 75 to 100 per cent. of large growth oak, hickory, and poplar timber land, which, when cleared, would prove well watered and productive.
7. It should contain a superior quality of coal and iron in practically inexhaustible quantities.
8. Its members should pass a rigid examination with regard to industry, morals, language, and health.
9. It should number, as a minimum, one hundred families.

Were the members of such a colony all wealthy, it would prove under Nationalistic principles naturally practicable. Were they all poor, even Nationalism is not equal to the emergency of instantaneously securing

these results. Clearly, the poor colony must either work longer or wait longer. Nationalism, like all the universe, is subject to conditions.

These conditions, it will be admitted, should make success easy; but they threaten a serious restriction of outlook in the economic regeneration of sixty millions of people who have only one continent at command.

THE *English Historical Review* for April, 1891, contains a valuable article by Miss Elizabeth Lamond, on the date and authorship of the book attributed to William Stafford, and often called his *Briefe Conceipt of English Pollicy*.* New light has been thrown upon this early contribution to economic discussion by an examination of two manuscript copies, one in the Bodleian Library and the other in the library of Mr. Lambarde, of Beechmont, Kent, in whose family the copy has apparently been handed down for more than three centuries.

Examination of the manuscript copies, which are nearly identical, shows that the treatise must have been written in the reign of Edward VI., and probably late in 1549. In its original form it described the evils resulting from the decay of towns, the turning of arable land to pasture, the alterations in the coinage, and the rising prices which caused dearth in the midst of plenty. The date, it will be observed, corresponds nearly with the often quoted First Sermon of Latimer, preached before Edward VI. in Lent, 1549. Thirty years or so later "W. S." appears to have edited the manuscript, by changing passages which bore special reference to the time when it was written, substituting phrases referring to Elizabeth for those which referred to Edward VI., making some important omissions and one interesting addition, and then published it as his own. It is interesting to note that the passage inserted is stated by Miss Lamond to include the well-known reference to "the great store and plenty of treasure"

* The full title is *A Compendious or briefe examination of certayne ordinary complaints, of divers of our country men in these our dayes*. By W. S., Gentleman. London, 1581. Reprinted by the New Shakspeare Society, in Series VI. of its publications, as a part of "Shakspeare's England."

as explaining the high prices of the time. This recognition of the effect of the gold and silver from the New World is therefore left as before with the date of 1581.

The doubtful identity of "W. S." is not made clearer by Miss Lamond's investigations; but a note written in 1565 on the Lambarde copy of the treatise, with other evidence, makes it probable that the author was John Hales (died 1572), of whom there is a short notice in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

From a long passage upon the coinage, omitted by "W. S.," but printed by Miss Lamond, and containing much interesting discussion, we will cite here a quaint and clear statement of Gresham's law:—

Well than (q. the doctør) when goldsmithes, merchauntes, and other skilled personnes in mettall do perceauē that the one grote is better than the other and yet that he shall have asmoche for the worst grote as for the better, will not he laye up the better grote alwayes, and turne it to some other vse, and put forth the worst, being like currant abroad? Yea no doubt even as they haue done of late with the newe golde, for they apperceauange the newe coyne of golde to be better in estimation than the newe coyne in silver that was made to counteruayle it, picked out all the golde as faste as it came forth out of the minte, and laid that aside for other uses. So ye haue nowe but little newe golde more than the olde currant. And so both the kinges highnes is deceaued of his treasure and the thinge entended neuer the more brought to passe; and all is because there is no dewe proportion kepte betuene the coyne, while the one is better than the other in his degree.